

Add New Section 116557 to the Health and Safety Code

§ 116557. Consolidation of Public Water Systems

Notwithstanding Government Code section 56133, where a public water system fails to reliably provide an adequate supply of safe potable water, the State Water Resources Control Board may require consolidation with another public water system. Prior to ordering consolidation as provided in this section, the State Water Resources Control Board shall:

- (a) Consult with the relevant local agency formation commission regarding the provision of water service in the affected area, the recommendations for improving service in a municipal service review, and any other relevant information;
- (b) Conduct a hearing as described in section 116545;
- (c) Find that:
 - (1) consolidation of the public water systems is feasible;
 - (2) consolidation is the best means to provide an adequate supply of safe potable water to the customers of those public water systems
- (d) Provide the receiving system with adequate and affordable financial assistance for the infrastructure needed to complete the consolidation. Affordability shall be based on the State Water Resources Control Board's existing financial assistance guidelines and policies.
- (e) Where the subsumed public water system is a privately held company, adequately compensate the owners for the fair market value of the system.

Version: 5/15/2015 at 4pm